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| 09/659,258 | 09/11/2000 | Gregory Richard Hintermeister | IBM/155 | 5587 |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 09/659,258 | HINTERMEISTER ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Namitha Pillai | 2173 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2007.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.    2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,8-12,14-16,18-26,30-32,34,35 and 37-41* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4, 8-12, 14-16, 18-26, 30-32, 34, 35 and 37-41* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All  b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1.      This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) on 8/9/07.   Applicants have properly set forth the RCE,

which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows

herewith.  The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 8-10, 23,

40 and the cancellation of claims 5-7, 17, 27-29, 36 and 42-45.  In view of the prior arts

disclosed in the field of hardware configuration and user interfaces for hardware

configuration, all pending claims have been rejected.  The previous rejection has been

maintained.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.      Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-16, 18-26, 30-32, 34, 35 and 37-41 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,535,227 B1 (Fox et al.),

herein referred to as Fox, U. S. Patent No. 7, 107, 534 B1 (de Jong et al), herein

referred to as De Jong and U. S. Patent No. 6, 384, 842 B1 (DeKoning et al.), herein

referred to as DeKoning.

Referring to claim 1, Fox discloses a method for managing computer hardware

components by displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a

plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of

the plurality of hardware components (column 3, lines 23-26). Fox discloses that each

of the hardware components have at least one attribute associated with it (column 3,

lines 28-32). Fox also discloses that in response to user input, indicating a selected

status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components

within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components

(column 3, lines 29-32). Fox discloses that for each of the nodes, representing the

hardware components, with each having selected status highlighting the risk status, a

manager window can be displayed which includes properties of the network

components, the properties representing a list of management operations associated

with the network component (column 3, lines 60-62). Figure 7 display hardware

components that are highlighted or selected in addition to a manager window that

displays management operations involving all hardware components including those

that are selected. Fox does not disclose that specific management operations are

performed on all the multiple hardware components where the dynamically retrieved list

of management operations are associated with multiple hardware components. De

Jong allows for the user to select filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter

criteria, these selections determine what errors and status information of parameters

and the hardware components to which these variables would apply to (Figure 8 and

column 9, lines 6-19). De Jong also discloses that the hardware components of the

system are viewable in multiple views including Quick View and Tree View (Figures 12

and 13). The attributes of these hardware components would be compared to the

selections made by the user, in order to display the desired information in Figure 7

(column 8, lines 42-61). Once the user has made selections of what types of hardware

information needs to be displayed, the information status of the associated hardware

components with which the information is associated with is tracked and the status

information is displayed to the user (column 8, lines 42-61). The pictorial representation

of Figures 12 and 13 continues to display non-selected components with Enterprise

windows displaying the selected hardware information. De Jong discloses configuring

hardware components including displaying and performing management operations on

multiple hardware components that are selected by the user (column 11, lines 47-50).

De Jong discloses dynamically retrieving a list of available management operations that

are associated with multiple hardware components where the Figure 7 of De Jong is

one example where a list of management operations related to multiple hardware

components that are carrying out distinct functions are listed (column 8, line 42 –

column 9, line 5), these management operations displayed in response to the selections

made by the user. De Jong's system includes selecting components that represent

multiple hardware components within, where configuration requires applying a

management operation to all of the multiple hardware components that have been

selected by the user (column 11, lines 53-59). Figure 11 of De Jong also provides a

display where the user has selected a hardware component and been provided with

management operations that are only appropriate for being performed on the hardware

component that was selected. This context sensitive menu is accessed after the user

has made the previous selections of the status of the hardware components in addition

to selection of the hardware component of Figure 11. It would have been obvious for

one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from De Jong to perform a

management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected

status response to user input including displaying of a list of management operations

associated with multiple hardware components. Both Fox and De Jong disclose

systems for configuring hardware components. De Jong provides a configuring system

for managing multiple devices that are stored in the RAID storage system, where

configuring the RAID storage system would involve configuring multiple disk drives,

providing an easy to use system for configuring multiple devices at one time (column 2,

lines 48-50). Therefore, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention would have

been motivated to learn from De Jong to configure multiple hardware elements where a

management operation is performed on all of the multiple hardware components that

have a selected status response to user input.

Fox and De Jong do not disclose that the pictorial representation of the hardware

components convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning discloses a graphical user interface for configuring computer

hardware components including pictorial representations that convey a relative

placement and location of hardware components in physical space (column 1, lines 62-

67). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

learn from DeKoning to disclose the hardware components in the pictorial

representation conveys a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning has disclosed advantages of displaying a pictorial representation based on locations and placement of the hardware components in physical space where distinct hardware components are easier to locate based on this pictorial representations (column 1, lines 54-58). Such an advantage of benefit the hardware configuration system of Fox and De Jong. Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to learn from DeKoning to include pictorial representations that convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical space.

Referring to claims 2 and 24, Fox, De Jong and DeKoning disclose a pictorial representation with an enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed with physical locations of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure (DeKoning, column 2, lines 15-23).

Referring to claims 3 and 25, Fox, De Jong and DeKoning disclose a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint and wherein the pictorial representation further includes a second diagram depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint (DeKoning, column 5, lines 32-38).

Referring to claims 4 and 26, Fox discloses an unused interface component which is used to configure physically interconnect with another hardware component further comprising managing the unused user interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation (column 8, lines 55-58).

Referring to claims 5 and 27, Fox discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with a vulnerability attribute (column 9, lines 5-8). Fox also

discloses comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter criterion (column 9, lines 5-8) and selecting those hardware components with attributes that match the filter criterion, with the pictorial representation continuing to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection, where both the selected and unselected components are displayed (column 9, lines 15-17).

Referring to claims 6 and 28, Fox discloses that user input is used for generating the filter criterion (column 9, lines 5-8).

Referring to claims 7 and 29, Fox discloses selecting the filter criteria from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, each of the predetermined filter criteria associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views, wherein various dialogues or views are displayed depicting selection criteria for different attributes including vulnerability and sensitivity attributes (column 8, lines 64-67 and column 9, lines 1-8).

Referring to claim 8, Fox discloses that each hardware component is associated with a hardware type and the filter criterion identifies a selected hardware type, wherein selecting those hardware components includes selecting those hardware components associated with the selected hardware type, where the "ANSSR RISK" view filter criterion shows the use of the hardware types in the filter criterion (Figure 10).

Referring to claim 9, Fox discloses updating the indication of the selected status for the hardware components responsive to selection of those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion, where the risk network elements

are selected, in relation to the risk elements that are displayed on the filter criterion (column 9, lines 15-30).

Referring to claims 10 and 30, Fox discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components (Figure 10). Fox also discloses displaying within this pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status (reference number 276, Figure 10).

Referring to claims 11 and 31, Fox discloses visually highlighting those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status (column 3, lines 29-32).

Referring to claims 12 and 32, Fox discloses updating the status of a hardware component to one of selected status and an unselected status (column 7, lines 5-15), wherein the displaying of these hardware components is in responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component (column 3, lines 29-32).

Referring to claims 14 and 34, Fox disclose that the multiple hardware components are physically locate in a plurality of computers, as is the case with components from belonging to a network, wherein the performing management operation includes performing the management operation in each of the plurality of computers (column 3, lines 22-32).

Referring to claim 15, Fox disclose that at least two of the plurality of computers utilizes different types of computer platforms (column 5, lines 1-5).

Referring to claims 16 and 35, Fox, De Jong and DeKoning discloses dynamically retrieving the list of available management is performed in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component (Fox, Figures 8).

Referring to claims 17 and 36, Fox discloses displaying a list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu (Figures 8 and column 3, lines 35-45). Fox and De Jong disclose performing the management operation on all of the multiple hardware components that are selected in response to user input directed to the context sensitive menu (De Jong, Figure 29), with management operations being performed on multiple disk drives of the selected RAID array.

Referring to claims 18 and 37, Fox discloses retrieving status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component (column 3, lines 29-32).

Referring to claims 19, Fox discloses including locating a user-manipulated pointer over that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the hardware component and displaying the retrieved status information within a pop-up window disposed proximate that portion of the pictorial representation

that depicts the physical configuration of the hardware component (column 8, lines 64-67).

Referring to claims 20 and 38, Fox discloses that the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a single computer, wherein all the needed information is contained within that single computer (column 3, lines 18-21), describing a computer system which holds the information for presenting network topology.

Referring to claims 21 and 39, Fox discloses displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a first computer with at least a portion of the plurality of hardware components being physically located in a second computer in communication with a first computer, with these components being part of a network (column 3, lines 22-26).

Referring to claim 22, Fox discloses that each of the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer from a group consisting of a single-user computer, multi-user computer, clustered computer, multi-unit computer, with a computer system, and the networks representing the systems with a plurality of computers (column 3, lines 25-45).

Referring to claims 23, Fox discloses an apparatus including a program residing in memory (column 7, lines 1-45). Fox discloses a method for managing computer hardware components by displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components (column 3, lines 23-26). Fox discloses

that each of the hardware components have at least one attribute associated with it

(column 3, lines 28-32). Fox also discloses that in response to user input, indicating a

selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware

components within the pictorial representation with the plurality of hardware

components (column 3, lines 29-32). Fox discloses that for each of the nodes,

representing the hardware components, with each having selected status highlighting

the risk status, a manager window can be displayed which includes properties of the

network components, the properties representing a list of management operations

associated with the network component (column 3, lines 60-62). Figure 7 display

hardware components that are highlighted or selected in addition to a manager window

that displays management operations involving all hardware components including

those that are selected. Fox does not disclose that specific management operations are

performed on all the multiple hardware components where the dynamically retrieved list

of management operations are associated with multiple hardware components. De

Jong discloses configuring hardware components including displaying and performing

management operations on multiple hardware components that are selected by the user

(column 11, lines 47-50). De Jong discloses dynamically retrieving a list of available

management operations that are associated with multiple hardware components where

the Figure 7 of De Jong is one example where a list of management operations related

to multiple hardware components that are carrying out distinct functions are listed

(column 8, line 42 – column 9, line 5). De Jong's system includes selecting components

that represent multiple hardware components within, where configuration requires

applying a management operation to all of the multiple hardware components that have

been selected by the user (column 11, lines 53-59). De Jong allows for the user to

select filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, these selections

determine what errors and status information of parameters and the hardware

components to which these variables would apply to (Figure 8 and column 9, lines 6-

19). De Jong also discloses that the hardware components of the system are viewable

in multiple views including Quick View and Tree View (Figures 12 and 13). The

attributes of these hardware components would be compared to the selections made by

the user, in order to display the desired information in Figure 7 (column 8, lines 42-61).

Once the user has made selections of what types of hardware information needs to be

displayed, the information status of the associated hardware components with which the

information is associated with is tracked and the status information is displayed to the

user (column 8, lines 42-61). The pictorial representation of Figures 12 and 13

continues to display non-selected components with Enterprise windows displaying the

selected hardware information. Figure 11 of De Jong also provides a display where the

user has selected a hardware component and been provided with management

operations that are only appropriate for being performed on the hardware components

that was selected. This context sensitive menu is accessed after the user has made the

previous selections of the status of the hardware components in addition to selection of

the hardware components of Figure 11. It would have been obvious for one skilled in

the art at the time of the invention to learn from De Jong to perform a management

operation on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status

response to user input including displaying of a list of management operations associated with multiple hardware components. Both Fox and De Jong disclose systems for configuring hardware components. De Jong provides a configuring system for managing multiple devices that are stored in the RAID storage system, where configuring the RAID storage system would involve configuring multiple disk drives, providing an easy to use system for configuring multiple devices at one time (column 2, lines 48-50). Therefore, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from De Jong to configure multiple hardware elements where a management operation is performed on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status response to user input.

Fox and De Jong do not disclose that the pictorial representation of the hardware components convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical space. DeKoning discloses a graphical user interface for configuring computer hardware components including pictorial representations that convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical space (column 1, lines 62-67). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from DeKoning to disclose the hardware components in the pictorial representation conveys a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical space. DeKoning has disclosed advantages of displaying a pictorial representation based on locations and placement of the hardware components in physical space where distinct hardware components are easier to locate based on this pictorial representations (column 1, lines 54-58). Such an advantage of benefit the

hardware configuration system of Fox and De Jong. Therefore one skilled in the art

would have been motivated to learn from DeKoning to include pictorial representations

that convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical

space.

Referring to claim 40, Fox discloses a program residing in memory (column 7,

lines 28-32). Fox discloses a method for managing computer hardware components by

displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display with a plurality of hardware

components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of

hardware components (column 3, lines 23-26). Fox discloses that each of the hardware

components have at least one attribute associated with it (column 3, lines 28-32). Fox

also discloses indicating in response to user input, a selected status for multiple

hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial

representation with the plurality of hardware components (column 3, lines 29-32). Fox

also discloses a signal-bearing medium bearing the program (column 7, lines 1-5). Fox

discloses that for each of the nodes, representing the hardware components, with each

having selected status highlighting the risk status, a manager window can be displayed

which includes properties of the network components, the properties representing a list

of management operations associated with the network component (column 3, lines 60-

62). Figure 7 display hardware components that are highlighted or selected in addition

to a manager window that displays management operations involving all hardware

components including those that are selected. Fox does not disclose that specific

management operations are performed on all the multiple hardware components where

the dynamically retrieved list of management operations are associated with multiple

hardware components. De Jong discloses configuring hardware components including

displaying and performing management operations on multiple hardware components

that are selected by the user (column 11, lines 47-50). De Jong discloses dynamically

retrieving a list of available management operations that are associated with multiple

hardware components where the Figure 7 of De Jong is one example where a list of

management operations related to multiple hardware components that are carrying out

distinct functions are listed (column 8, line 42 – column 9, line 5). De Jong's system

includes selecting components that represent multiple hardware components within,

where configuration requires applying a management operation to all of the multiple

hardware components that have been selected by the user (column 11, lines 53-59).

De Jong allows for the user to select filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter

criteria, these selections determine what errors and status information of parameters

and the hardware components to which these variables would apply to (Figure 8 and

column 9, lines 6-19). De Jong also discloses that the hardware components of the

system are viewable in multiple views including Quick View and Tree View (Figures 12

and 13). The attributes of these hardware components would be compared to the

selections made by the user, in order to display the desired information in Figure 7

(column 8, lines 42-61). Once the user has made selections of what types of hardware

information needs to be displayed, the information status of the associated hardware

components with which the information is associated with is tracked and the status

information is displayed to the user (column 8, lines 42-61). The pictorial representation

of Figures 12 and 13 continues to display non-selected components with Enterprise

windows displaying the selected hardware information. Figure 11 of De Jong also

provides a display where the user has selected a hardware component and been

provided with management operations that are only appropriate for being performed on

the hardware components that was selected. This context sensitive menu is accessed

after the user has made the previous selections of the status of the hardware

components in addition to selection of the hardware components of Figure 11. It would

have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from De

Jong to perform a management operation on all of the multiple hardware components

that have a selected status response to user input including displaying of a list of

management operations associated with multiple hardware components. Both Fox and

De Jong disclose systems for configuring hardware components. De Jong provides a

configuring system for managing multiple devices that are stored in the RAID storage

system, where configuring the RAID storage system would involve configuring multiple

disk drives, providing an easy to use system for configuring multiple devices at one time

(column 2, lines 48-50). Therefore, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention

would have been motivated to learn from De Jong to configure multiple hardware

elements where a management operation is performed on all of the multiple hardware

components that have a selected status response to user input.

Fox and De Jong do not disclose that the pictorial representation of the hardware

components convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning discloses a graphical user interface for configuring computer

hardware components including pictorial representations that convey a relative

placement and location of hardware components in physical space (column 1, lines 62-

67). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

learn from DeKoning to disclose the hardware components in the pictorial

representation conveys a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning has disclosed advantages of displaying a pictorial

representation based on locations and placement of the hardware components in

physical space where distinct hardware components are easier to locate based on this

pictorial representations (column 1, lines 54-58). Such an advantage of benefit the

hardware configuration system of Fox and De Jong. Therefore one skilled in the art

would have been motivated to learn from DeKoning to include pictorial representations

that convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical

space.

Referring to claim 41, Fox discloses that the physical computer readable signal-

bearing medium includes a recordable medium (column 7, lines 1-12).

Referring to claim 42, Fox also discloses automatically generating a pictorial

representation on a computer display having a plurality of hardware components within

the plurality of computers, identifying a plurality of hardware components resident in the

plurality of computers (column 3, lines 23-26). Fox also discloses performing at least

one management operation on multiple selected hardware components among the

plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the

pictorial representation that represents the physical configuration of one of the multiple

selected hardware components, (column 3, lines 293-32), the operation being the vulnerability determining of a set of hardware components. Fox discloses that for each of the nodes, representing the hardware components, with each having selected status highlighting the risk status, a manager window can be displayed which includes properties of the network components, the properties representing a list of management operations associated with the network component (column 3, lines 60-62). Figure 7 display hardware components that are highlighted or selected in addition to a manager window that displays management operations involving all hardware components including those that are selected. Fox does not disclose that specific management operations are performed on all the multiple hardware components where the dynamically retrieved list of management operations are associated with multiple hardware components. De Jong discloses configuring hardware components including displaying and performing management operations on multiple hardware components that are selected by the user (column 11, lines 47-50). De Jong discloses dynamically retrieving a list of available management operations that are associated with multiple hardware components where the Figure 7 of De Jong is one example where a list of management operations related to multiple hardware components that are carrying out distinct functions are listed (column 8, line 42 – column 9, line 5). De Jong's system includes selecting components that represent multiple hardware components within, where configuration requires applying a management operation to all of the multiple hardware components that have been selected by the user (column 11, lines 53-59). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn

from De Jong to perform a management operation on all of the multiple hardware

components that have a selected status response to user input including displaying of a

list of management operations associated with multiple hardware components. Both

Fox and De Jong disclose systems for configuring hardware components. De Jong

provides a configuring system for managing multiple devices that are stored in the RAID

storage system, where configuring the RAID storage system would involve configuring

multiple disk drives, providing an easy to use system for configuring multiple devices at

one time (column 2, lines 48-50). Therefore, one skilled in the art, at the time of the

invention would have been motivated to learn from De Jong to configure multiple

hardware elements where a management operation is performed on all of the multiple

hardware components that have a selected status response to user input.

Fox and De Jong do not disclose that the pictorial representation of the hardware

components convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning discloses a graphical user interface for configuring computer

hardware components including pictorial representations that convey a relative

placement and location of hardware components in physical space (column 1, lines 62-

67). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

learn from DeKoning to disclose the hardware components in the pictorial

representation conveys a relative placement and location of hardware components in

physical space. DeKoning has disclosed advantages of displaying a pictorial

representation based on locations and placement of the hardware components in

physical space where distinct hardware components are easier to locate based on this

pictorial representations (column 1, lines 54-58). Such an advantage of benefit the

hardware configuration system of Fox and De Jong. Therefore one skilled in the art

would have been motivated to learn from DeKoning to include pictorial representations

that convey a relative placement and location of hardware components in physical

space.

Referring to claim 43, Fox discloses each of the plurality of hardware

components is associated with at least one attribute and wherein each of the plurality of

hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams (column

8, lines 64-67 and column 9, lines 1-8). Fox discloses that each of the plurality of

hardware components is associated with at least one attribute and a method to

compare attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against a filter

criterion and selecting those hardware components associated with the attributes that

match the filter criterion (column 9, lines 15-17). Fox discloses dynamically generating

the pictorial representation includes displaying the pictorial representation only the

diagrams with the selected hardware components (column 9, lines 30-32).

Referring to claims 44 and 45, Fox and De Jong discloses that retrieving and

displaying a list of available management operations associated with multiple hardware

components includes dynamically generating the list after the multiple hardware

components have been selected to include only management operations that are

appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components have a

selected status (De Jong, Figure 29).

**_Response to Arguments_**

3.      Applicant's arguments filed 8/1/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that De Jong does not disclose selecting a plurality of filter criteria associated with different views.  De Jong has provided a dialog menu for the user to choose multiple criteria of information that would be relayed to the user.  This information is associated with the current status of distinct hardware components to which the parameters selected apply.  The hardware components of De Jong are associated with multiple views, where the plurality of filter criteria of the selected hardware components would be associated with these views.

Applicant argues that De Jong does not disclose where the hardware components are selected before the context sensitive menu is displayed.  The specified context sensitive menu of Figure 11 would require that the array with its multiple disks would have to be selected in order for the specified and appropriate management operations to be displayed, these management operations directly applicable to the specific array.

Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine Fox, De Jong and DeKoning.  The three references are within the field of hardware components configuration and provide an efficient user interface for the management of these components.  The features disclosed in De Jong and DeKoning would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art would pursue the known options provided in De Jong and DeKoning to provide more options for hardware configuration in Fox.

Therefore the combination of Fox, De Jong and DeKoning would have been obvious in view of the nature of the field of user interfaces in hardware configuration systems.

### *Conclusion*

4.      Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be:  a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.
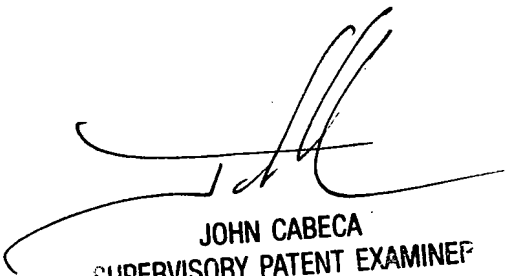
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September 14, 2007

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